

significant improvements to trunkline bridges through the state due to strategic planning as well as opening almost 80 miles of widened roadways and passing relief lanes to relieve congestion, reduce delays and improve safety. Other program successes have been in overall safety, economic development projects, parking, roadside programs, and environmental quality.

Mr. Speaker, on June 30th, a special ceremony to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Michigan Department of Transportation will be held at the Mackinac Bridge in my district, one of the world's largest suspension bridges that connects the Upper and Lower Peninsulas with five miles of concrete and steel innovation. Friday, July 1st, the department's employees will also celebrate the anniversary in Lansing, Michigan. Celebrating this milestone year at the Mackinac Bridge is most appropriate because of the symbolism the Mighty Mac shares with that of this accomplished state department. MDOT has connected people from Copper Harbor to Coldwater, has set a number of firsts in national accomplishments, and continues to look ahead at ways to improve transportation for Michigan residents and visitors. Since its inception by Mr. Earle, MDOT has focused on the quality of its services and resources, the effectiveness of their work, the dedication to the needs of their travelers, the integrity to improve transportation the right way the first time, and the pride of being the best as what they do. I ask the United States House of Representatives to join the Michigan Congressional Delegation in congratulating the Michigan Department of Transportation on its first 100 years and even better success through the next century.

CONGRATULATING THE PHOENIX COMPANIES

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Phoenix Companies on its active commitment to Connecticut's capital of Hartford. Phoenix restated that commitment today with the celebration of three events significant to the city where it has operated since its founding in 1851. In that time, the Phoenix has evolved into a leading financial services company specializing in life insurance, annuities and asset management.

The company has returned all of its Connecticut operations to Hartford, and today welcomes back 450 employees who have relocated there. In February, the Phoenix's distinctive two-sided headquarters that is a signature of Hartford's skyline was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Considered a classic example of Modernist architecture, the building was designed in the early 1960s by Max Abramovitz, who is widely acclaimed for his role in designing the United Nations and Lincoln Center. The Phoenix is undertaking a major \$25 million renovation to update its landmark boatshaped building into a state-of-the-art office building while maintaining its exceptional architectural integrity.

As The Phoenix renovates its home, it has also reached out to help the citizens of Hartford become home-owners. Its philanthropic

arm, The Phoenix Foundation Inc., is providing a \$100,000 grant to The Neighborhoods of Hartford, Inc., which is responsible for implementing Mayor Eddie Perez's homeownership initiative. The Foundation's grant will reinforce and extend the initiative, providing funding for additional projects designed to tip transition neighborhoods into healthy ones. Last year, The Foundation's grants totaled \$1.36 million, almost all of which went to Hartford-area organizations.

The Phoenix's investments and active participation in the city is admirable, and its embrace of its community roots is to be applauded.

HONORING OLEE LEWIS FOR HER SERVICE TO HENRY COUNTY

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Tennessean and a dear friend of mine, Mrs. Olee Lewis of Paris, Tennessee. Olee recently completed her 38th year of serving our community at the Henry County Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

As a daughter of a local tobacco farmer, Olee dreamed of being a missionary or a nurse, and as an adult, she made her dreams come true. Olee received her nurse's aide certification after high school and then began training at National Baptist Missionary Training School in Nashville. She had to leave missionary school before she was finished but still jumped into a life of missionary work back home.

Olee has directed the Henry County Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council and has helped many people throughout her years there. One of Olee's greatest accomplishments is the "Sister to Sister and Brother to Brother" club, which organizes black men and women to meet the needs of the community. "Sister to Sister" has been so successful there is now a "Sister to Sister II."

She has also found the time to organize the SHARE program, serve as Secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Education Ushers Department, and serve as a director of many different projects in her local church. For her extraordinary work in the community, Olee has received the Personalities of the South Award, was appointed to the important Families First Committee and was named a Kentucky Colonel. Married to the late Charles Wesley Lewis, Olee has been a wonderful mother to four foster children and also has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Throughout her life, Olee has contributed much to our community, our state and our nation. She has never shied away from work when her skills and efforts were needed and could make a difference. Mr. Speaker, please join me as I recognize Olee's many achievements and contributions, and to say thanks to her for all she has done through the years to make the city of Paris, Henry County, and the State of Tennessee a better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO IRMA VELASQUEZ

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in recognition of the extraordinary achievements of Irma Velasquez, who was recently awarded the Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Service for her creation of a school for autistic children in my district. With her son as inspiration, Ms. Velasquez started Wings Learning Center five years ago so children with autism would have the tools to excel in the face of even the toughest disabilities.

The Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Service has been nationally administered since 1972 by the American Institute for Public Service. The award is given to those who are committed to making a difference in their community. Ms. Velasquez was given her award by the San Francisco Chronicle for her tireless pursuit in search of techniques to let autistic children flourish.

Mr. Speaker, her son Aaron was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. Having received her bachelor's degree in Economics and Business Administration from San Francisco State University and working as an accountant, she was ill-prepared for the diagnosis. Ms. Velasquez knew little about how to help her son with his disability and how to interact with him in daily life. She searched for the right education that could help her son while at the same time she educated herself about autism. Not satisfied with the special education disabled students were receiving at the schools in her district, she and her husband, Sherman Chan, started a unique school for her son.

Wings Learning Center, in San Mateo, California, maintains a team approach in the classroom and creates play groups that focus on social and motor skills. In addition to a dedicated set of teachers, the staff also consists of speech and occupational therapists. Today this primary school has 14 students enrolled from all over the Bay Area with more students starting in the fall of 2005. Ultimately Wings Learning Center hopes to find enough space to expand into a high school and provide training and support programs for educators.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Irma Velasquez deserves more recognition. What started as love for her child and a drive to understand his world quickly turned into an opportunity to help other children and offer resources for parents in a similar situation. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Irma Velasquez, and wish her well on a promising future as a provider of special education for autistic children.

BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ISSUE A COMPULSORY LICENSE FOR LOPINAVIR/RITONAVIR

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, Brazil's HIV/AIDS program has been recognized by the